Taking over the computerisation system from Computer Maintenance Corporation Ltd.

1215. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for taking over the task of comupterisation of the railway passenger reservation system from the public sector Computer Maintenance Corporation Ltd.;

(b) whether CMC is able to handle the present computerisation requirements of the Railways and also meet its future requirements; and

(c) if so, the precise advantages likely to accrue to the Railways in taking over the work from the CMC and at what cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) CMC are maintaining the four Passenger Reservation Systems at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. At the fifh location, viz., Secunderabad, hardware is being maintained by ECIL, a Public Sector undertaking and software by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems). Though CMC are capable of handling the Railways requirements with respect to the passenger reservation system, as a long term policy, Railways would like to have 'In house' maintenance of software which provides greater flexibility in carrying out modifications to software and is also likely to be more economical.

Supply of Drinking Water in Villages

1216. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages which do not have assured source of drinking water out of about 6,00,000 villages in the country State-wise;

(b) by when all the villages would have this facility year-wise progress; and

(c) whether any proposal to accelerate the pace of drinking water supply schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan period has been contemplated; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) A Statement is enclosed at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 41]

(b) As per the Action Plan for coverage of problem villages during 1990-91 out of the remaining 8439 problem villages, 5295 villages will be covered by 31st March, 1991. Balance 3144 villages are likely to be covered during 1991-92.

(c) 8439 problem villages in 19 States have spilled over to Eighth Plan Subject to availability of funds, the rest of the problem villages would be covered within next two years. The priorities to be followed in the VIIIth Plan for supply of drinking water would be—

(i) To cover the spill over problem villages.

(ii) Augmentation works in the partially covered vi llages.

(iii) To cover villages where the quality of water is leading towards health hazards and

(iv) Rejuventation/replacement of water sources which were established perior to 8th Plan.

Draft Farm Policy

1217. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently released the draft of Agriculture policy;

(b) whether it aims at self-sufficiency in foodgrains;

(c) the other features of the draft policy; and

(d) by when the agriculture policy in final shape is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution is under preparation.

(d) Effort is being made to introduce the draft Agricultural Policy Resolution in the Parliament as early as possible.

Import of edible oil

1218. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country still continues, if so, how much edible oils is being imported this year;

(b) what quantity of indigenous edible oils is available at present and what steps Government have taken so far for increasing production thereof in the country;

(c) at what price the National Dairy Development Board which is a market intervention agency, has been asked to maintain the market prise of groundnut/mustard oil this year and what is the stock and sale position as per monthly statement of NDDB for last six months; and

(d) what steps Government have taken for moernisation of edible oil industries so far and how long this shortage of essential commodity in this country will continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Import of Edible Oils this year will lalgely depend on the production of edible oil seeds during the ensuing Kharif Crops and availablity of foreign exchange for this purpose.

(b) Based on the estimates of production of oilseeds, availability of indigenous ediible oils is estimated to be the order of 47.22 lakh M.Ts. Government has already adopted a multipronged strategy to increase the production of edible oils which includes, besides others the following:—

(i) Implementation of project like NODP and OPTP providing assistance to oil growing States for critical inputs like improved seeds plant protection irrigation and extension of technology;

(ii) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin and rice bran etc.;

(iii) intensification of research efforts for increasing productivity of oilseeds;

(iv) better incentives to farmers of through fixation of minimum support prices for edible oilseeds; and

(v) setting up of Technology Mission on oilseeds production;

(c) Under the Market Intervention operation of edible oils, NDDB, acting as its agent is supposed to maintain the prices of groundnut oil and mustard oil within the respective price-bands fixed by the Government which is Rupees 17000-23,000 PMT and Rs. 22000-28000 PMT in respect of mustard and groundnut oil respectively. Considering the highly speculative nature of edible oils and the impact of disclosure in regard to sale and purchase of edible oils under the Market Intervention operation on the success of Operation, it is not considered expedient in the public interest to indicate the quantity of oilseeds and oils purchased and sold by NDDB.

(d) As modernisation measure, a programme of modernisation/modification of huller rice mills through CSIR has already been undertaken to maximise the production of edible grade rice bran oil. The gap between demand and supply of edible oil is to continue until